

OPINION  
57-131

April 5, 1957 (OPINION)

MOTOR VEHICLES

RE: Altering License Plate Prohibited

In answer to your request of April 3, 1957, as to whether or not the painting over of a license plate with red paint, thereby changing the color of the original license, is in violation of law, the following comments constitute my opinion:

Subsection 2, section 39-0465 of the N.D.R.C. of 1943, stating: "It shall be unlawful for any person to commit any of the following acts: . . . 2. To display or cause or permit to be displayed, or to have in possession, any registration card or registration number plate knowing the same to be fictitious or to have been canceled, revoked, suspended, or altered: . . ."

The word "altered" in the above statute would appear to prohibit the painting of the original license plate, for to do so would alter the plate in its color, and the color is one of the distinguishing elements of identification.

LESLIE R. BURGUM

Attorney General